

LOUISIANA

conservationist

september—october, 1971



...comments

To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

—Theodore Roosevelt

It is always refreshing and satisfying for me to see during my trips afield fathers hunting with their sons. It is not an uncommon sight, as some persons might be inclined to believe. On the contrary, I feel there are more fathers taking their sons hunting with them today than did so in the past.

You will find youthful hunters in the dove fields, around hunting camps, duck hunting, with many a young hunter bagging his first deer at a more tender age than his father. Squirrel hunting is said to be the traditional way to start a boy hunting. Perhaps that may be true, but I can assure you that graduation comes quickly.

There is something about this companionship between fathers and sons that brings out the best in both. For the son there is development of respect for the father and a sense of pride at being introduced and

accepted into a man's world. There are many other benefits that accrue as this companionship in the field is fostered and developed.

Perhaps the greatest and most lasting lesson for a young hunter during these highly formative years is an abiding interest in our forests, streams, marshes, and the various forms of fish and wildlife they contain. These are lessons that will be retained in later years and be of vital importance in helping the next generation reach conclusions and make decisions pertaining to conservation issues.

Naturally, there is a certain sense of pride for any father as he watches his son develop into a skilled hunter, and also a fisherman for that matter; but the message that I would like to convey in these comments goes much deeper.

In introducing young people to the pleasures of being outdoors and becoming deeply interested in our natural resources, including wildlife and fisheries resources, we also have the obligation to point out examples of where our lands and waterways have been mismanaged. There are countless examples of this in Louisiana, as well as in other states.

Countless beautiful, meandering streams and bayous have been channeled and permanently spoiled



Clark M. Hoffpauer

under the guise of flood control. Changing agricultural practices in the past thirty to forty years have resulted in many of our forests being converted to sprawling farms that offer very little for wildlife, forcing many species of wildlife to be compressed into smaller areas.

These areas are diminishing areas, and only through acquisition of lands and marshlands for wildlife management purposes can we assure future generations of places where they may hunt. This is one of the major challenges facing the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and its counterparts in other states.

The only permanent way of assuring public hunting lands for future generations is through outright purchase. In this program the Commission needs full public support. Progress has been made in recent years and additional lands will be secured in the future. But it must be done quickly, while suitable lands can be obtained at reasonable prices.

This should be one of the primary objectives of the Commission in the years ahead. We must assure the young hunters who are being introduced to one of the most satisfying sports in the world that this is their heritage when they are grown and not something that will just be a collection of fond memories.

LOUISIANA conservationist

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I give my pledge as an American to
save and faithfully to defend
from waste the natural
resources of my country—its soil
and minerals, its forests, waters
and wildlife.

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Messages on Metal Bands

McFADDEN DUFFY

On a cold morning in mid December last year, Robert I. Didier, Sr., of Baton Rouge was crouched in his duck blind approximately 12 miles south of Gueydan, Louisiana. His decoys bobbed gently at anchor in a realistic spread in front of his blind. It had been a good morning and he had five ducks, including a mallard hen. Several teal sped over his decoys but he held his fire. He wanted a second mallard to round out his limit.

Luck was with him that morning because he spotted a large mallard drake coming across the marsh toward his blind. Didier crouched lower and raised his duck call to his mouth. He gave the call of a contented mallard feeding. The drake dropped lower and set its wings as it prepared to drop into the decoys. Didier's shotgun boomed and the mallard drake slammed into the water.

The hunter recovered his duck and sunlight glinted on a metal band that circled one leg. It bore the number 747-22579. Didier mused about the duck band as he collected his decoys, wrapping the anchor cords around the necks of the decoys and storing them in the bow of his

pirogue. He wondered where the mallard had been banded and how long ago had the metal band been placed on its leg. The number was actually a message on a metal band and it would be possible for him to obtain the answer to several questions that were swimming through his mind.

The aluminum band bore some writing in addition to the numbers. It was "Avisé Fish & Wildlife Service—Write Washington, D.C. USA" and Didier decided as he tucked his last decoy in the sack that he would write to Washington and find out what information was available about this particular mallard drake.

The duck season ended and one day his mail box contained a Certificate of Appreciation from the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland 20810.

The message, keyed to the number on the metal band, was that his mallard drake was at least one year old when it was banded January 15, 1965; by U. S. Game Management Agent M. J. Turner near Harrisburg, Arkansas.

Didier settled down in a chair and



studied the certificate. Simple counting on his fingers told him that his mallard had probably made six round trips from the breeding grounds to its wintering grounds before it had been bagged. He could only speculate where that mallard had been reared to flight stage from a down duckling to a continental wanderer.

The metal band had contained a special message for this hunter and on two other occasions he had bagged banded waterfowl. One was a goose, and the third was another duck. Perhaps there was nothing earth shaking about the knowledge that the mallard drake had migrated thousands of miles over a span of a half-dozen years and probably mated five times in northern nesting grounds; but to Didier it was interesting and thought provoking.

At about the same time Didier was showing his certificate to family and friends, U. S. Game Management Agent M. J. Turner at his home in Jonesboro, Arkansas, received his Report To The Bander card through the mail. It told him who had bagged the mallard drake and both where and when it had been taken. Turner had banded thousands of birds as a career wildlife worker; but each recovery notice was of interest to him.

On the very same cold mid December morning in 1970 that Robert Didier, Sr., bagged his mallard drake at Gueydan, Walt Day of Norco, Louisiana, bagged a male Redhead in the vicinity of Norco. It bore a metal band with the number 726-971 23. His Certificate Of Appreciation revealed that his duck had been banded near Vine Valley, New York, on January 24, 1968, by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Research Laboratory, headquartered in Delmar, New York. It was at least a year old when banded and possibly had made four round trips from its breeding grounds to Louisiana's wintering grounds. Perhaps it had mated three times.

The banding program is not limited just to game birds. Roughly two-thirds of all birds being banded at present are non-game birds; with about one-third being game birds. The deeper one digs into this program the more fascinating it becomes. Some species are global travelers. Often the distance of their travels and the rate of speed intrigue those who are interested, and provoke interest in persons when they become aware of the program and the knowledge derived from it.

Pintails are plentiful and popular in Louisiana during the regular duck season. Hunters know that many of the early flights of pintails slip down south of the border to winter in Mexico and Latin America, but they probably do not know that pintails are global nomads. Band recoveries not only reveal the age of a bird but they also provide information on migration patterns; and in some cases extended world tours.

One good example is a male pintail that was banded in the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northern California during September, 1961. It was shot in Japan in January, 1968.

A female pintail with a yen for travel was banded in the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge near Alamosa, California, in September, 1967, and was shot in Siberia in May, 1968. Information on this duck and other banded birds recovered in Russia

is supplied by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Zoological Institute, The Center of Ringing and Marking of Birds and Terrestrial Mammals, Moscow, Russia. This organization has been very cooperative in the worldwide program of banding and reporting recoveries of banded birds.

That birds can travel great distances has been proved repeatedly by band recoveries. Perhaps the species that covers the greatest distance is the Arctic Tern. It breeds in Arctic Canada and Greenland and winters in the Antarctic waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and occasionally even to the shores of Antarctica. The Migratory Bird Populations Station has a record of one that was



Hunter above crouched in his blind is typical of thousands each year who bag waterfowl wearing metal bands that are keys to vital information for those who report the band information to the Migratory Bird Populations Station in Laurel, Maryland. Opposite page, top, shows a wood duck ready to be banded. Center photo shows the same wood duck being released after it has been banded by wildlife worker. Bottom photo shows a mourning dove being banded.

banded in the Northwest Territory of Canada in August, 1967, and recovered on the coast of France in October of the same year.

Band recoveries reveal that some birds not only cover great distances but they do it quickly. One good example of this is a Barn Swallow that was banded as a nestling in Boston, Indiana, in August of 1968 and shot along the Amazon River in Brazil in September of the same year.

The oldest known wild bird at the Migratory Bird Populations Station is a Herring Gull. It was banded as a nestling in Maine in 1930 and was found dead in Michigan in 1966.

Getting back to three pintails from North America that were taken in widely separated places in far distant parts of the world; one duck was taken near Cali, Colombia, South America. Another was shot on an island in the Pacific, and the third was bagged along the Dark River in England.

The South American hunter learned that his duck had come from North Dakota. The weatherman in the Pacific discovered that his bird had been in northern California, more than 4,600 miles away,



just three months before. The English sportsman found that his pintail duck just 21 days before had been in Labrador, some 2,200 miles away on the other side of the Atlantic.

These persons and many tens of thousands of others have learned something of the life history of the birds they have recovered from those metal leg bands and the number on them.

The history of bird banding dates back well over two and a half centuries. As far as personnel of the Migratory Bird Populations Station know the first bird band to be recovered was found on a Gray Heron in Germany in 1710. The heron had been banded in Turkey several years before.

Modern bird banding really had its beginning with Hans Christian Mortensen, a school teacher in Viborg, Denmark. In 1890 he began putting metal bands on the legs of teal, pintails, storks, starlings, and two or three kinds of hawks. The bands had his name and address inscribed on them.

It wasn't long before his banded birds began showing up in various places in Europe. Other bird students and persons interested in the wandering of winged wildlife soon became interested in bird "ringing" as it is called in Europe. About this time this interest in banding or "ringing" also developed in America, but completely independent of the European work spread to America.

As more persons became interested in this practice of banding birds in America, it became evident that more could be accomplished if the individual bird banders worked as a group. This led to formation of the American Bird Banding Association in 1909. A substantial number of birds were banded but during World War I banding efforts lagged.

The American Bird Banding Association approached the old Biological Survey when it saw that the program was getting too large for them to handle. The government was not interested at first, but finally through discussions did take over the work, with its counterpart, the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The offer was soon accepted and since 1920 banding of migratory birds in the United States and Canada has been under the joint direction of the Federal Governments of the two countries.

Banding birds has revealed many things about individual birds, as well as the species or group to which they belong. It is known that many birds live as long as 10 years. Some live even longer; for example, a Redwinged Blackbird that was banded in New York and was shot 14 years later in North Carolina; and a Black duck banded on Cape Cod was taken by a hunter 17 years later in Newfoundland.

Another outstanding example, similar to the Herring Gull banded in 1930 and recovered in 1966, was a Caspian Tern. It was banded in Michigan in 1925 while still in the nest and shot in Ohio in 1951.

It is when banded birds are recaptured at various places and released unhurt that banding information discloses the routes they were following. It follows that when a large number of birds such as Bobolinks, Scarlet Tanagers, and various ducks and geese are banded, the Migratory Bird Populations

Station can map the general route the species takes between its wintering and nesting grounds.

From banding information, it has been learned that some birds, like the Golden Plover, do not return south for the fall over the same route they took north in the spring.

Perhaps someone may raise the question "How did we learn that the Arctic Tern makes the longest known migration flight of any living species?" It was from bands returned from such faraway places as Nigeria, West Africa, and Natal and Cape Province, South Africa. It is now definitely known that this bird makes an annual round trip flight of about 25,000 miles, nesting near the Arctic Circle and wintering in the Antarctic. It has been estimated that no other species spends so much time in the daylight as this Tern. Since it nests in the Arctic Summer when the days are almost 24 hours long, and winters in Antarctic summer when the days are the same, it experiences night only during migration.

Countless ducklings and goslings are banded each summer on their nesting grounds. When hunters return band information they find on these birds during the hunting season, they are actually helping to a degree to improve their future hunting. From band information and other data, wildlife biologists can figure pretty closely just how numerous certain ducks will be along the various migration routes during the following hunting season. There is little doubt that the vast amount of information being collected from banded migratory game birds is useful in the fixing of seasons and general knowledge about migratory routes.

Since 1920, when the banding operations in this country and Canada were taken over by the Federal governments, between 23 and 24 million birds have been banded. In 1970, approximately, 1,542,000 birds were banded, of which approximately two-thirds were non-game birds.

There were 99,070 recoveries reported in 1970 and each person sending in a band or band information received a Certificate of Appreciation. In addition, the person who banded the bird received a card giving details of the recovery.

There are 17 sizes of aluminum bands used by bird banders. Very small bands are needed for tiny birds such as the warblers, vireos, kinglets and hummingbirds. Large bands are used on swans, geese, or eagles. The gamut of band sizes allows bird banders to properly fit any size bird, from the smallest to the very large.

No article on bird banding in Louisiana would be complete without mention of the vast effort made by the late Edward Avery McIlhenny of Avery Island fame. McIlhenny was an explorer, writer, business executive, naturalist conservationist, and is credited with saving the snowy egrets from extermination at the hands of plume hunters who sought the aigrettes to decorate womankind with the beautiful plumes that are nuptial adornments worn only by the birds during the mating season.

McIlhenny had a vast thirst for knowledge about all forms of wildlife and was an active bird bander. Authorities credit him with banding 189,298 birds during his lifetime—a monumental number for any bird bander.

The Bird Banding Laboratory now has 2,046 Master Bird Banding Permits, and between two and three thousand sub-permittees engaged in bird banding. Approximately 200 of these banders are in Canada. Accurate record keeping is vital to the bird banding program and full records of all birds banded are held at the Migratory Bird Populations Station at Laurel, Maryland. It is at this station that wildlife biologists can quickly locate information about the banded birds recovered and send out the Certificate of Appreciation, as well as the cards to the actual individuals who banded the birds.

It is obvious that as banding operations have



Bob Dennie



Bob Dennie

been accelerated during the years there are millions of birds wearing aluminum leg bands but the information that can be obtained from the band is of little value unless a recovery is made. Even though only about one third of the migratory birds being banded at present are game birds almost two thirds of the recoveries are of game birds, so it stands to reason that hunters are the most probable persons to recover bands.

The Migratory Bird Populations Station indicates that since 1920 the recovery rate is about 6.7 per cent for all species. This could be increased if all hunters who take banded birds send in the in-



Bob Dennie



Lloyd Poissenot

formation. Many hunters like to keep the bands for souvenirs. This is agreeable to the Migratory Bird Populations Station, provided the person properly notes the number of the band, the species of bird if possible, the date of recovery, and the name of the nearest town or community where the bird was taken.

Hunters should examine the legs of ducks, geese, woodcock, doves, and other migratory game birds they shoot. Dead birds along the highways and dead birds that are washed up on seashores should be examined. Bands are often recovered in this fashion.

In the event that a live banded bird is found, do not attempt to remove the band but read the number on it, write it down carefully, and release the bird. Wildlife biologists may learn more about the bird, where it goes, and how long it lives. If it is a small bird with a small aluminum band you will not find the name of the Service on it. It will be on the inside; but do not attempt to remove the band. It should be left intact. Send the number and other essential information to: Bird Banding Laboratory, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20810.

In the interest of gathering information on migratory birds all persons, particularly sportsmen, have a stake in bird banding. The most important thing is getting the information to the Bird Banding Laboratory. If for no other reason, plain curiosity should provide the incentive. Just what is the message keyed to the number on that metal band?

Photos on opposite page show a flight of ducks across the Louisiana marsh. Chances are excellent that one of these ducks may be wearing a leg band, the numbers of which can reveal where and when it was banded and the extent of its travels. Below, woodcock are shown being banded. More woodcock have been banded in Louisiana than anywhere in the country.

Upper photo shows biologists at one of the wire traps which are used to capture ducks for banding purposes. Immediately below, wildlife management students are shown assisting Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission personnel in banding captured doves which have been attracted to a special baited trap used for this purpose. Upper right photo shows Brown pelicans being banded at the Grand Terre Marine Research Laboratory. Lower right photo shows a Louisiana hunter who has bagged a banded goose.

Bob Dennie



Bob Dennie



THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN LOUISIANA

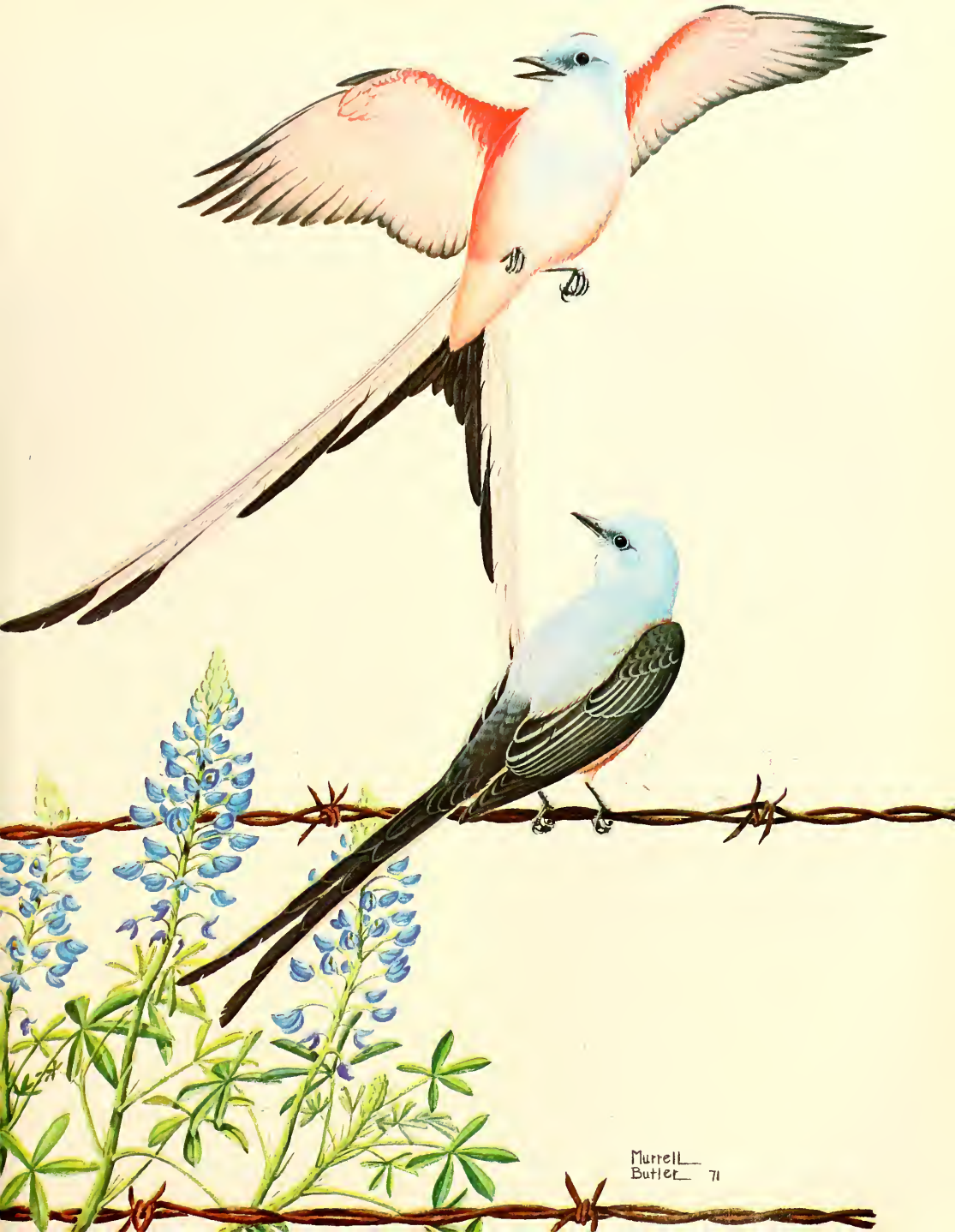
Photo Story By Murrell Butler



THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Muscivora forficata*) is a most spectacular bird and should not be confused with any other species in Louisiana. This interesting species is extensively pearl-gray in color with the underwing linings and sides of breast salmon pink, the deepest color near the bend of the wing. Although extremely agile of wing, the Scissor-tail is not a large bird; it measures 14 inches, 9 of which comprise the long scissor-like tail.

Few people of Louisiana realize that the beautiful Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, or Texas Bird of Paradise as it is often called, is a regular summer resident in certain portions of our state. The areas selected in summer for nesting by this species are roughly the vicinity of the Red River Valley from about Natchitoches to Shreveport and more recently Southwestern Louisiana in the Gum Cove area and near Holmwood southeast of Lake Charles. It has been recorded in many other portions of the state, principally Southwestern Louisiana during migration and for a time was observed fairly regularly in winter in the Venice area in lower Plaquemine Parish. According to the L. S. U. Museum of Natural Science files, the Scissor-tail has been recorded in Louisiana in every event of the year. This attractive species is more commonly a bird of the southern Great Plains region of the United States, breeding from southern Nebraska through south Texas. This range includes the extreme western sections of Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana. It has been adopted as the state bird of Oklahoma and is held in high esteem by its farmers for its attractiveness and beneficial feeding habits. The food consists of roughly 96 percent insect matter much of which represents such harmful insects as beetles, grasshoppers, and crickets. The remainder of the diet is made up of vegetable matter, usually small fruit. The Scissor-tail or "oiseau papillon" meaning "Butterfly Bird", as it is called by the French speaking people of southwestern Louisiana, has quite a temper during the nesting season. It has been known to fearlessly attack or even alight on the back of such large birds as hawks and crows in defense of its nest. These habits make it a most valuable addition to any farmyard containing chickens.

My first acquaintance in Louisiana with this spirited nymph of the rolling plains occurred in June of 1961. I first observed the birds on telephone wires near Coushatta, Louisiana and was soon to find the nest by watching the adults. The nest was situated about 18 feet up in a Post Oak (*Quercus minor*) standing in an open field beside a deserted cabin. At this time the nest contained one newly hatched young bird and one unhatched egg. Perhaps something had happened to one or more of the eggs, as the normal complement of eggs is three to five. The nest of this species is usually quite bulky being composed largely of soft materials such as cotton, hair, and thistledown. As well as nesting in trees, this species has the unusual habit of building its nest on the cross-arms of telephone and light poles. This practice I have observed many times in Texas, and on May 16th of this year I witnessed a pair of these birds building their nest in a similar manner near Gum Cove in southwestern Calcasieu Parish. On this same day I observed eight other Scissor-tails along a 12 mile stretch of road in this same area. I later learned that Joe Kennedy had discovered a pair building a nest near Holmwood southeast of Lake Charles on April 26, 1970. The Scissor-tail has been observed during the breeding season at points farther east, but as yet no nest has been found. We may hope that the two populations of this beautiful bird both in northwestern and southwestern Louisiana will continue to prosper and spread, thereby becoming a familiar sight in more areas throughout our state.



Murrell
Butler 71



WHITE LEAFED DOGWOOD
(*De Quand's Dogwood*)



RED FLOWERED DOGWOOD (*L. racemosa glaberrima*)



SLICKSEED WILD BEAN
(*Strophostyles leiosperma*)



MALE CARDINAL PERCHED ON A NEST OF DRY PINE NEEDLES WITH TWO WHITE EGGS.

PARTRIDGE PEA FLOWER



LOUISIANA - METRO DRIVE WOODROW

WILDLIFE LIKE LEGUMES

L. K. HALLS AND S. W. OEFINGER, JR.

Southern Forest Experiment Station
U.S.D.A. Forest Service

A bobwhite quail busily scurries to and fro along the fence row at the woods edge. What's it looking for? Probably a legume seed, one of its favorite foods. If successful in finding enough legumes, the quail will likely live through the winter and hatch a brood of chicks the following summer.

The legume seeds that the quail finds are quite apt to be partridge pea, lespedeza, or tickclover but they may be from one or several of approximately 400 species that grow in the South. These species include low-growing herbs, vines, shrubs, and trees.

Quail usually eat larger amounts and a greater variety of seeds from legumes than from any



Bob Denine

other plant family. They begin as soon as the seeds fall to the ground and continue to feed on them as long as they can be found. The amount eaten usually depends on the availability. Also, the green leaves from sprouted legume seeds may be a part of quail diet in late winter and spring.

Other game competes to some extent with quail. The seeds and leaves of many legume species are an important, although minor, part of eastern wild turkey diet. Turkeys regularly use the foliage and seeds of common lespedeza and also the insects which inhabit the plants. They also eat several other lespedezas and species of native tickclovers.

Some of the lespedezas, tickclovers, and vetches are considered choice for white-tailed deer, which often consume the fruits and flowers along with the leaves and stems.

To a lesser extent the legumes are eaten by cottontails, mice, mourning doves, and many songbirds.

A good many of the legumes occur widely throughout the South. A single species seldom comprises a major portion of wildlife diet, but seed yields from groups of species may be 10 pounds or more per acre. Soil disturbances and fire usually increase the legumes and make the seed readily available.

The legumes serve a special need because of their high crude protein content. Quail and turkey require a lot of protein for growth and reproduction, and legumes help balance the inadequacies of other foods. White-tailed deer receive the same benefits, since a major portion of their food is deficient in protein for most of the year.

In most areas of the South habitat can be substantially improved for wildlife, especially bobwhite quail, through planting and proper management of legumes. Some recommended annual species that will reproduce with soil disturbances or fire are common and Kobe lespedezas, Cherokee tickclover, and showy

PIRROL BINDIGER (Cassia fasciculata)
 MULTIFLOWERED TEPHROSIA (Tephrosia virginiana)
 WILD SENSITIVE PLANT (Cassia nictitans)
 d. Deer also consume large quantities of legumes in addition to other browse and their buds are also consumed.



PIRROL BINDIGER (Cassia fasciculata)
 MULTIFLOWERED TEPHROSIA (Tephrosia virginiana)
 WILD SENSITIVE PLANT (Cassia nictitans)

PIRROL BINDIGER (Cassia fasciculata)
 MULTIFLOWERED TEPHROSIA (Tephrosia virginiana)
 WILD SENSITIVE PLANT (Cassia nictitans)



partridgepea. Shrub lespedeza must be cut back or burned to encourage sprouting and new growth. Sesbania must be planted annually, with inoculated seed. An added advantage of the seedlings is to localize game birds during the hunting season.

Native and introduced species that occur commonly and contribute most to wildlife food are listed below. Some of them are illustrated by the photos.

Some common legumes utilized by wildlife in the South:

Hogpeanut (*Amphicarpa bracteata*)
 American Potatobean (*Apios americana*)
 Showy partridgepea (*Cassia fasciculata*)
 Wild sensitive plant (*Cassia nictitans*)
 Coastal butterflypea (*Centrosema virginianum*)
 Atlantic pigeonwings (*Clitoria mariana*)
 Littleleaf tickclover (*Desmodium ciliare*)
 Tickclover (*Desmodium glabellum*)

Maryland tickclover (*Desmodium marilandicum*)
 Panicked tickclover (*Desmodium paniculatum*)
 Sessile tickclover (*Desmodium sessilifolium*)
 Cherokee tickclover (*Desmodium tortuosum*)
 Downy milkpea (*Galactia volubilis*)
 Shrub lespedeza (*Lespedeza bicolor*)
 Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
 Hairy lespedeza (*Lespedeza hirta*)
 Trailing lespedeza (*Lespedeza procumbens*)
 Common lespedeza (*Lespedeza striata*)
 Kobe lespedeza (*Lespedeza striata* var. *Kobe*)
 Stueve lespedeza (*Lespedeza stuevei*)
 Slender lespedeza (*Lespedeza virginica*)
 Broadleaf rhynchosia (*Rhynchosia latifolia*)
 Catclaw sensitive brier (*Schrankia uncinata*)
 Hemp sesbania (*Sesbania macrocarpa*)
 Pencillflower (*Stylosanthes biflora*)
 Small wildbean (*Strophostyles leiosperma*)
 Pink wildbean (*Strophostyles unbellata*)
 Multiflowered tephrosia (*Tephrosia onobrychoides*)
 Virginia tephrosia (*Tephrosia virginiana*)
 Louisiana vetch (*Vicia ludoviciana*)

Secrets of successful waterfowl calling

PAUL KALMAN

"**N**OTHING TAKES THE PLACE OF A SNOW GOOSE FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER," Jerry Touche whispered, "and that lead bird is about to fulfill his destiny."

"Just talk him in a trifle closer and I'll . . ."

Jerry's words broke off abruptly as he shouldered his heavy 12 gauge autoloader and let go with a load of No. 2 magnums.

Nine geese were in the flight with the leader about 30 yards from the blind when the shot caught him square in the face. He uttered a squawk of surprise, collapsed in a shower of white feathers, and tumbled, wing over wing, into the soggy coastal marsh.

Jerry fired twice more before I could unfumble the safety and get my own gun into shooting position. By this time, the remaining seven birds were fighting for altitude like a bunch of homesick angels. It was obvious that only a lucky head shot would be fatal at such extreme range so I slipped my gun back to safe.

The second victim, a young blue goose, had fallen a considerable distance from our stand and was



PHOTOS BY PAUL KALMAN





World's champion duck and goose caller Dud Faulk demonstrates his unique dual-call technique. Starting off with the mallard call (upper left) while the ducks are far distant, Faulk switches to the softer pintail or widgeon whistle as they move in closer to the decoys.

beating out its life with broken wings. I volunteered to end his misery while Jerry picked up the nearest bird and propped its head into a lifelike position with the help of a rousseaux cane. This done, we returned to the blind and resumed calling.

The noise from the shooting had caused the marsh to come alive. Thousands of blue and snow geese were spiraling around us, filling the air with a deafening din. It was impossible to look in any direction without seeing geese in flights ranging from a dozen up into the hundreds. Describing every imaginable style of waterfowl formation, they wheeled, turned, dipped and rose in endless array.

It soon dawned on us that with so many real geese inhabiting the marsh, our meager spread of 10 plastic decoys and two rigged up dead birds couldn't offer much attraction to bring them in range.

"We'll have to rely on our calls and see if they'll get the necessary attention," Jerry advised. "I only wish we had a little more practice with these gadgets."

Jerry and I had driven out to Johnson's Bayou in Southwest Louisiana to attend a meeting of the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association at the hunting lodge owned by John Paul Crain, former member of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

The evening we arrived, John Blanchard invited Paul "Dud" Faulk to come down from Lake Charles and give us the inside word on how he became the world's champion duck and goose caller. Since the feature of the meeting would be goose hunting, I paid particularly close attention when Dud demonstrated his goose-calling technique.

"Blue geese and snow geese are noisy birds," Faulk explained, "and most of them will be yelping while they're in flight. If you want them to hear your call, you've got to make more noise than they do. Otherwise, you take the chance of having them pass you by without even seeing the decoys."

Faulk's strategy is to imitate a flock of geese instead of a single bird. This is done by a combination of hand movements and carefully controlled breathing.

The typical snow goose call is a single-high-pitched cry. The blue goose starts off with a lower pitched



A big decoy spread, combined with line calling, offers a deadly combination for both ducks and geese. Dud Faulk's personal blind, pictured left, utilizes more than 250 duck and goose decoys.

cry followed immediately by a higher break, the latter being in the range of the snow goose. Sometimes, the blue goose utters two, three or four of these lower cries before his voice cracks into the yelp.

Faulk claims that any good quality blue goose call works equally well on snow geese and vice versa, provided the hunter knows how to use it. Since snow and blue geese almost always fly together, it's logical to combine the two kinds of calls when you hunt them.

Dud cautioned against using a Canada honker call on snows and blues because the Canada's call is entirely different. Still different is the special call needed for white front or speckled belly geese whose cry sounds almost exactly like the scream of a loose automobile fan belt. When the lecture ended, Faulk passed around a box of duck and goose calls he had made and invited us to try them out the next morning.

Following Dud's instructions to the letter, Jerry and I experienced shooting that was nothing less than astounding. By calling in unison and doing our best to sound like a big flock of geese, we were besieged—time after time—by excited blues and snows hurtling out of the heavens to dive-bomb our decoys. Our limits of five geese per man were filled less than 10 minutes after we entered the blind.

Two weeks after this fabulous experience, Jerry talked me into entering the citywide duck and goose calling championship contest sponsored by the New Orleans Sportsmen's League.

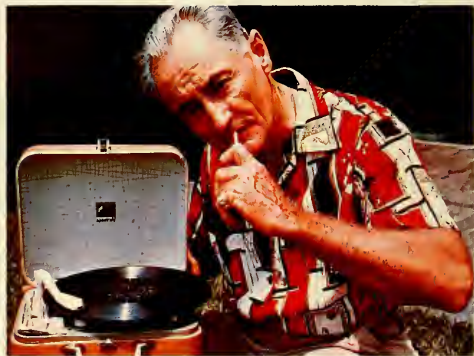
Every year, this contest attracts some of the hottest duck and goose callers in southwest Louisiana but I had never considered my calling good enough for such high-powered competition.

Using the same goose call Dud Faulk had given me at Johnson's Bayou in combination with another

of Dud's calls I later purchased at a local sporting goods store, I walked off with first prize. My technique was to blow one call for a few seconds, switch to the second call, and reverse the procedure.

After the contest was over, the three judges told me that my imitation of a flock of geese (instead of a single) was the trick that turned their decision in my favor.

Proper use of a calling device is one of the most vital secrets to success in waterfowl hunting. How you build your blind and spread the decoys are equally important, but it is really a combination of



Seven-time champion Bob Murphy finds it helpful to polish up his calling by listening to recordings of real ducks and geese and imitating their sounds, below. Once in the blind, lower right, Murphy's practice sessions pay off with flawless calling that proves irresistible to waterfowl.

these three basics which determines whether you get good shooting or draw blanks.

The quickest, easiest and most effective way to learn waterfowl calling is to watch the experts, these being the professional guides who literally "call for their supper", or experienced amateur sportsmen who customarily come home with full bags. Lacking access to these sources, the hunter can listen to professionally made phonograph records—of which there are many—or visit a zoo, public park, or farm where domesticated ducks and geese will provide him with authentic calling lessons.

Before attempting these expedients, it is wise to examine the whys and wherefores of waterfowl calling. Until the federal government outlawed their use some years ago, live decoys did a large amount of the hunter's calling for him. The most popular bird for this work was the female mallard which has a loud raucous call that can be heard for great distances. Since mallards are sprinkled liberally over



Happy retriever brings in a fat mallard to Jerry Touche who lured the big drake into gun range with his call. Mallards are among the smartest ducks and are quick to detect improper calling.



most of the U. S., species other than mallards often respond to the mallard's call as readily as to their own. This is the reason why most duck calls are designed to sound like the mallard.

Most duck or goose calls consists of five pieces, including an outer tube which comes apart into two interlocking sections, a wooden "gutter", a reed made from hard rubber, plastic or metal, and a soft cedar or cork "wedge". The reed is cut off square at one end and tapered at the other. It and the gutter are partially inserted into the smaller section of the outer tube where they are held in place by the wedge. The exposed portion of this reed-gutter combination is covered by the larger section of the tube which slips over and fits snugly against the smaller section.

The device is amazingly simple and can be taken apart and reassembled in a matter of seconds. However, putting it back so it will sound authentic is a duck of another color.

The basic sound is determined by the way the reed is tapered and fitted to the gutter. Lengthening or shortening the reed determines the degree of vibration and, in turn, the sound. Sharpness or coarseness can be built into the call by controlling the taper and fit. This, incidentally, is the most critical and time-consuming phase of the manufacturing process since it must be done entirely by hand. Skilled workers are employed to file and scrape the reeds and constantly check their thickness with micrometers.

Duck calling techniques vary widely in different sections of the U. S. Along the Pacific coast, for example, hunters use a deep toned call with lots of volume. In the mid-West, they prefer a high pitched call. In South Louisiana, the most popular call is harsh and loud. Just the opposite is true in Minnesota where hunters purchase more soft calls than any other.

In addition to this, the ducks themselves have different voice levels. A particular hen mallard might issue soft, come-hither pleadings while a sister from the same litter belts out her calls like a fog horn.

This is why there is such a variety of sounds when you try out a number of duck calls in the sporting goods store. The manufacturer has purposely mixed them to include calls with high pitch, low pitch, mel-low, harsh, easy blowing, hard blowing, etc.

Dud Faulk alone turns out 14 different pitches, each checked against master calls that have proved themselves on wild ducks and geese.

"They'll all work," Faulk contends. "The difference depends mostly on the user."

From the foregoing, it is evident that almost all hunters disagree about how waterfowl should be called. The ducks themselves call differently, and no two men will blow the same duck call entirely alike. Further confusing the issue is how ducks react in various environments.

By way of example, the favorite call for mallards in the flooded pin oak flats of Arkansas is a series of 10, 12 or 15 rapid "highballs". In south Louisiana, mallards respond better to only 4 or 5 "highballs."

I became aware of this some years ago at the Louisiana Rice Festival in Crowley where the late Herb Parsons won his first of several international duck calling championships. After the contest was over, several of us asked Parsons why he and the professional guides from Stuttgart called so differ-

ently from what we were accustomed to in Cajun country.

Parsons explained that the multitude of trees in swamp shooting makes it more difficult for mallards to hear a call, while the opposite is true in open marshes where sound carries more easily.

"If I hunted down here in coastal Louisiana," Herb noted, "I'd call the same way you do."

The highball is known variously as the "long call" or "far-out call" and is used to bring ducks from great distances. There are several other standard calls including a feed call that sounds like cackling, a "come back" call that resembles the long call except that it's more exciting and pleading, a short distance call (not as loud as the highball), and the plain old-fashioned quack a lady duck sounds to tell everyone that she's rested, contented, and has a full gizzard.

Less popular than the mallard call but equally deadly on certain species of ducks is a whistling device which duplicates the sound of the widgeon. These devices are considerably easier to master than mallard calls and also work well on pintails. If the area where you hunt is frequented by several varieties of ducks, it's wise to have one of these whistles in your kit. They are small, inexpensive, and you can learn how to use one in a matter of minutes.

Incidentally, the amount of money you pay for a call isn't an iron bound guarantee that you'll get something best suited to your needs. As noted earlier, no two hunters handle a call exactly alike. One fellow can make a perfect fool of himself with a fancied-up \$25 job while another gives the ducks convulsions with the bargain basement special.

As a rule of thumb, you can figure on \$3 being the

rock bottom price for a standard quality duck call that really works. If you spend more, you're probably getting pretty much the same innards enclosed in a fancier outer shell. Goose calls generally come a trifle higher, ranging from \$4 up to \$7.50.

Herb Parsons owned one of the most ornate duck calls I have ever seen. It was Circassian walnut, checkered like the stock of a fine gun, with the entire outer barrel made from 14 carat gold. Engraved along the rim were the duck hunter's immortal words: "Keep your big head down."

There aren't many solid gold calls in existence but even if people could afford them, they wouldn't sound as good as those with modest barrels of wood, plastic or cane. Very few cane calls are seen outside of Louisiana where it is still the favored material of many old timers. This is a native cane, cut while still green and dried in the sun. The inner core is drilled for uniformity, after which the barrel is waterproofed. The inherent weakness of cane can be partially overcome by binding the outer barrel with a brass band made from a 16 gauge shell.

Calls made with wooden or plastic barrels look better than cane and are much stronger. Walnut, cherry and myrtle are the woods most widely used for this purpose.

Hard black rubber is the finest material for reeds and practically all of the champions use calls fitted with them. Plastic reeds are softer and more pliable. Although easier to make, they do not work as well as rubber. Reeds made from aluminum and brass are least desirable.

The most serious drawback with hard rubber reeds is their brittleness. In cold weather, they might snap off with the first blow, leaving you high and dry. This hazard can be reduced to some extent by blowing several times through the wrong end of the call to warm the reed with your breath. An even better idea is to carry an extra reed in your wallet where it will be available when needed.

Duck and goose calls should be suspended from cords around the hunter's neck. In places where you are likely to encounter both ducks and geese and are carrying one call for each, the goose call should be suspended at a different length from the duck call so they will not be confused or hit together.

America's biggest concentration of duck and goose calling champions is found in the vicinity of Stuttgart, Arkansas and Lake Charles, Louisiana. On a visit to Lake Charles seven years ago, I was introduced to no less than five world's champions. The first was Dud Faulk's father, the late Clarence



Proof that expert calling pays big dividends can be seen in the bags displayed by Ben Bridgeman, Dud Faulk, and Paul Dennis Kalman. Only a small number of duck hunters take the time and trouble to master the art of calling.



Smartest of all geese is the white front or speckled belly which Winters only in southwest Louisiana. Even these wise birds can be brought to the gun with expert calling. Lucky hunters John Duhon, left, and Paul Kalman, center, relied on the calling of world's champion Dud Faulk, right, to get their speckled bellies from the marshes south of Lake Charles.

Faulk, who won the world's goose calling crown at Missouri Valley, Iowa in 1955 on his very first try. In this contest, the participants must imitate four species including blue and snow geese, Canada honkers, and speckled bellies.

I also spent some time with Raleigh Newman, a Lake Charles attorney, whose living room was packed with trophies from floor to ceiling. They included the international duck calling championship, the Louisiana state duck title for two consecutive years, the Beaumont southwest regional duck calling contest for two years, and the world's championship goose calling contest.

Newman and Louis "Tee" Miller, a Louisiana state titlist in duck calling and the Cameron Fur Festival duck champ the following year, agreed that calling contests and calling for live game are not the same.

"Competition calling is flatter and more muffled," Newman claims. "When hunting, we prefer to end our mallard calls with a slight squeak. This causes the sound to carry better and drives the birds insane."

Miller is a strong believer in two callers working in unison. One man gives the highbells while the other makes with the sounds of feeding.

"The best way to operate with two fellows hunting from the same blind is for the man doing the loud calling to watch the ducks while the other guy keeps his head down and face hidden. With both men watching, you double your chances of having the ducks see you."

One man stops calling entirely when the birds

come closer, while the other fellow cuts down on his volume.

Miller declined comment on the proper time to stop calling and start shooting.

"You have to watch the birds' flight behavior," he explained. "On certain occasions they react to the sound of your call while other times it's the sight of the decoys. Lots of times it's both. I've seen many times when you didn't have to call at all. The ducks simply saw the decoys and made up their minds to join them without any prompting from me."

The moment of truth is when the ducks approach your spread and begin to circle. Most professional guides never call to a circling duck unless the orbits start getting wider and wider, indicating suspicion. Then, their calls are extremely soft and pleading.

Bob Murphy, who voluntarily retired from competitive calling after winning the New Orleans city-wide duck championship for seven straight years, thinks bad calling frightens away infinitely more waterfowl than good callers lure to the gun.

Too many hunters, Murphy feels, labor under the illusion that effective calling involves nothing more than buying a call and blowing it in the general direction of ducks and geese.

"It's a real insult to the intelligence of these beautiful birds," Murphy charges. "Two out of every three hunters you meet in the marsh haven't the slightest idea about what they're doing. They are in the same league, mentally speaking, with the idiots who insist on shooting when they know perfectly well the birds are out of range."

At the age of 10 and 11, Murphy's son won the junior duck calling championship in New Orleans for two years straight and came very close to winning the senior contest one year. Murphy taught the boy everything he knows and swears that any man or woman can become reasonably proficient with a duck or goose call by following a few very simple rules.

"You might not win contests," he admits, "but it will definitely help you kill more ducks if you make up your mind to study the right methods and practice as often as possible."

"Murphy's method" consists of listening to an experienced caller or phonograph records, and practicing with the aid of live ducks.

On the subject of buying a call, Murphy advises beginners to seek the help of a friend or salesman who has enough experience to tell if a call is particularly suited to him.

"It's like trying on a suit or a pair of shoes," he says. "You've got to be properly fitted."

For those lacking the time and ambition to do these things, Murphy has one final bit of advice.

"Buy your call, polish it carefully the night before the hunt, take it with you into the duck blind, place it in the bottom of your shell bucket, and leave it there."



1971-72 Hunting Season

DOVES: Three-way split; Sept. 4-19 (16 days); Oct. 16- Nov. 14 (30 days); Dec. 18- Jan. 10 (24 days); Daily bag limit 12, possession 24; Shooting hours 12 noon to sunset.

GALLINULES: Sept. 4- Nov. 12; Daily bag limit 15, possession 30.

TEAL: Sept. 18-26; Daily bag limit 4, possession 8. Blue-winged and green-winged only. No special federal teal permit required. Valid hunting license and signed affixed duck stamp necessary. Shooting hours from sunrise to sunset.

SQUIRRELS: Oct. 2- Jan. 10; Daily bag limit 8, possession 16.

RABBITS: Oct. 2- Feb. 29; Daily bag limit 8, possession 16.

RAILS: Oct. 30- Jan. 7; King and Clapper, daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, possession 30. Sora and Virginia daily bag and possession limits 25 in the aggregate.

BEAR: Closed.

DEER: See hunting regulations for details and open areas. Limit one per day, five per season. Big game hunting license necessary in addition to basic hunting license.

TURKEY: March 25- April 16, 1972. Daily bag limit one, two per season. Big game hunting license necessary in addition to basic hunting license. Dogs, baiting and rifles prohibited for the taking of turkeys. Gobblers only.

ARCHERY SEASON: Oct. 1- Jan. 9. See hunting regulations for details and open areas.

QUAIL: Nov. 25- Feb. 29; Daily bag limit 10, possession 20.

COMMERCIAL HUNTING PRESERVES: Oct. 1- March 31; Pen-reared birds only.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR RESIDENT GAME: One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.

SNIPE (Wilson's); Dec. 18- Feb. 20; Daily bag limit 8, possession 16.

GEESE: Two-way split; Nov. 11- Jan. 9; Feb. 5-14; Daily bag and possession limit the same, 5. The bag may be made up of any mixture of blue and snow geese, but cannot contain more than two white-fronted (specklebelly) geese. The taking of Canada geese is not permitted in Louisiana.

WOODCOCK: Nov. 25- Jan. 28; Daily bag limit 5, possession 10.

DUCKS: Two-way split; Nov. 11-28; Dec. 11- Jan. 11. Shooting hours for waterfowl, other than teal, are one half hour before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag limit 6, possession 12. Daily bag may not contain more than two mallards, nor more than two woodducks, nor more than one canvasback or redhead. Possession limit may contain four mallards, a maximum of four woodducks and one redhead or canvasback.

COOTS: The coot season will run concurrent with the two segments of the duck season. Daily bag limit 15, possession 30.

BONUS SCAUP: There will be a bonus of two scaup (dos gris) in that portion of Louisiana which lies south of the Intracoastal Waterway from the Texas line to Morgan City, south of U.S. Hwy. 90 from Morgan City to U.S. Hwy. 61, northeast of U.S. Hwy. 61 from New Orleans to LaPlace, east of U.S. Hwy. 51 from LaPlace to Hammond, south of U.S. Hwy. 190 from Hammond to the Mississippi line.



**"FUR LUXURY
FROM
LOUISIANA"**



The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has just completed a documentary film entitled "Fur Luxury from Louisiana", designed to promote Louisiana and the sales of furs produced here. It covers every facet of our fur industry, beginning with the Fur Queens at Mardi Gras, touching upon the swamps, marsh habitat and the trapper who plays a vital role in maintaining an ecological balance through his work. Collecting and handling of the pelts, and the final dressing and manufacturing of the finished garment in New York, as well as modeling of the advanced 1971-72 styles of both men and women at the winter resorts, in addition to urban and campus wear, are also depicted.

The film will be distributed to 125 television outlets, reaching six million viewers throughout the United States, which will give the Louisiana Fur Industry national coverage. This is a timely project, as our industry is going through a critical period, with the fashion authorities of the United States and Canada searching for new furs and designs, at a time when the trade needs a change of pace and new life. Louisiana may have the answer, with its great productive capacity of nutria, muskrat, raccoon, opossum and mink.

In the past two decades, ranch mink has dominated the entire American fur trade, whereas our furs were forced to find a market in Europe. However, this turned out to be fortunate for the Louisiana trapper and landowner, even though they had to absorb the added shipping and handling costs. During this period, the Italian and West German fur dressers greatly enhanced our nutria furs through their technology—the finer quality Louisiana pelt being refined in Italy in the plucked and sheared state; the flatter, lighter-pelted

Photography by Bob Dennie



Above: Louisiana bobcat coat trimmed in black or tan leather for shopping or dress wear. Opposite page: For campus and sports wear, Louisiana muskrat men's coat; otter shade long-haired nutria, with hood trimmed with raccoon. Also, bobcat jacket, Louisiana's answer to the spotted fur shortage.



The Cossack Look, showing raccoon hat and full length coat with black leather studded belt for dress wear.

Eastern fur being perfected in the long-haired state by the West Germans.

While filming the fur dressing process in New York plants, it was noted that the technicians there kept before them samples of the European dressed pelts. They confessed that they were unable to sleep nights, in their feverish effort to duplicate this fine work. There is a great deal of pride in the secretive methods employed in this highly-skilled, close-knit trade. The American dressers know that if they can ever produce a comparable product, the trade will tend to return to the United States, eliminating the overseas transportation costs, the six-months-to-year's lag in time; and the expensive interest rates on money invested.

The United States has been able to go to the moon, build a bridge across the alluvial lands of the lower Mississippi, and move the London Bridge to Arizona, but has yet to dress a nutria properly.

Trends in the United States and Canada are presently towards new and varied type furs and designs, in a price range for sports and everyday wear. Americans have always maintained a one-fur-coat wardrobe, whereas Europeans have been much more fur-minded, maintaining wardrobes of several different type furs.

The internationally known Black Diamond Mink firm, which so graciously assisted in the film, with models and new designs created from Louisiana products, is taking more than a look at our diversified furs.

Research by the Fur Age Weekly found that the average age of furriers is 55. Contrary to this, the firm shown in the filming of the manufacturing process in New



Natural nutria, plucked and sheared, with lynx collar and hat for dress wear.

York is owned and operated by two young men well under this age. They have become very successful in the past 15 years, using only Louisiana nutria. They are presently cutting upward of 50,000 pelts annually, with their workload constantly on the increase. The feeling is that there is plenty of room for others in the trade, and in fact they would welcome legitimate competition.

The Commission is hopeful that this film will ignite a spark in the fur industry, generating creativity in fur designing, sewing and manufacturing—a field that is presently wide open, as evidenced by the following quote from the August 23, 1971 issue of *Fur Age Weekly*:

"The Fashion Design Department of the Fashion Institute of Technology is offering a new, updated, course in fur fashion design during the fall 1971 semester.

"The class is scheduled for Fridays from 6:20 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. -

"According to Professor Hilda Friedman, chairman of the department: 'It is our opinion that we can help the industry by encouraging new, vital thinking in fur creativity' . . .

There are few business fields more stimulating to the abstract and adventuresome spirit than the imaginative designing and sewing of furs. Aside from self-satisfaction, it is profitable as well.

For further information on obtaining a copy of this interesting and informative film, contact the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Film Lending Library, Box 44095, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804.



Louisiana's nutria pelts can be dyed any color to be utilized in striking, unusual trim on other garments, or for fur garments with an unusual appeal.



PHOTO BY OLA EKELAND

DOVES BY THE DOZEN

Story by Larry Soileau

Photography by Bob Dennie

The day of the 18 dove bag limit is past. Perhaps not forever, but gone for now at least. Not since 1936 had dove hunters enjoyed so liberal a bag limit as they did during the past two hunting seasons. This year, however, Louisiana dove hunters were once again offered the now traditional bag limit of 12 birds. This limit reduction does not signal lower dove numbers this fall. Likewise, the liberal 18 bird limit of the past two seasons did not reflect a larger fall flight during those years.

These bag limit changes were

rather the orderly steps of a well planned dove research study designed to determine the effects of bag limit changes on the dove harvest and on the dove population of the eastern United States. The full implication of these bag limit changes will not be known until all the evidence has been fully examined. The spring call-counts of breeders, the kill surveys, the wing collection surveys and the banding studies have been documented and are now being analyzed in detail.

Some preliminary conclusions,





at the state level at least, can already be drawn. Louisiana's total dove kill was apparently not affected by the 50 percent increase in the bag limit. It remained at approximately the 1.5 million mark. The average kill per hunting trip remained at roughly 4 doves despite a change in the size of the legal bag limit.

Louisiana dove hunters were able to exceed the traditional bag limit of 12 on approximately 20 percent of their successful trips with only one of these trips in 10 resulting in a full bag of 18. This all seems to demonstrate that the opportunity to kill a relatively large limit of doves doesn't happen to the average guy often and even given that opportunity, his shotgunning skill does not often measure up to the task.

The state's dove breeding pop-

ulation has remained relatively stable during this period of bag limit change, but is now lower than it was several decades ago. This reduction in the dove breeding population is probably the result of land use changes in the state.

Like other Gulf Coast states, Louisiana serves as the wintering area for many doves hatched and raised to the north. Over half of our annual dove harvest is produced outside of our state with a major portion of this kill occurring during the second and third segments of our split season. Our neighboring states of Mississippi and Texas contribute over 1/3 million doves to our annual harvest. The midwestern states of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois produce an additional 1/3 million doves which are killed here. States

even farther to the north such as Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan contribute another 1/5 million birds to our annual harvest. Dove production in these states is, therefore, vitally important to the success of our hunting season.

Our present dove hunting regulations which allow a 70 half-day season to be split into three segments enable us to harvest both our locally produced birds and our wintering migrant population. It also serves to satisfy hunters in various parts of the state who wish to hunt when doves are most abundant locally.

It is hoped that continued research into the wise use of hunting regulations will allow us to continue to enjoy our present liberal hunting regulations while maintaining a healthy dove population.



